

# CASH PROGRAMS DIVISION

June 2003

## CalWORKs Wage-Based Community Service Project

Effective July 1, 2003, Wage-Based Community Service (WBCS) will be offered Countywide. WBCS is a voluntary GAIN activity and is currently being piloted in GAIN Region V, and in 4 CalWORKs Districts (Compton, South Central, South Family and Paramount). Participants in WBCS gain real work-like experience and receive a paycheck. The paycheck amount is diverted from a portion of their CW cash grant.

Because the number of available slots in WBCS is limited, Districts will be contacted by CalWORKs Program Section when a participant in their District is assigned to WBCS. CalWORKs Program will provide district staff with written instructions on how to update LEADER.

For more information on Wage-Based Community Services, you can log on to the DPSS Intranet under the CalWORKs Website, or contact Mario Uribe at CalWORKs & Refugee Programs Section at (562) 908-6355.



## “RETURN OF THE PA 262”

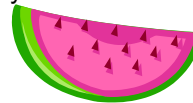
Effective February 2003, the PA 262, Confirmation of Cancelled Vendor Services, was reactivated on LEADER. When a voucher cancellation is entered by the District Cashier on LEADER (in the Benefit Issuance subsystem, Display Invoice Summary screen), a PA 262 will automatically be generated. The EW uses the PA 262 to notify the vendor of the dates on the original voucher that will be cancelled to prevent inappropriate requests for payment.

## SSI Advocacy Programs for GR and CAPI

**GR:** L.A. County receives over \$13 million a year in reimbursements from the Social Security Administration for those participants recently approved for SSI who were on GR. L.A. County also saves that much in future GR benefits that don't have to be paid to these participants because they are now on SSI. This translates into cost savings for the County.

**CAPI:** The State saved over \$20 million during the first year of the CAPI SSI Advocacy Program! The reduced caseload and cost savings helped preserve the CAPI Program. Did you know that the State was seriously considering eliminating or drastically reducing eligibility for CAPI two years ago? Did you know that would have resulted in up to 6,000 new GR cases? Thousands of these elderly and disabled legal immigrants would have lost their CAPI benefits of over \$700 a month and would have been reduced to the GR grant of up to \$221 per month.

Whenever you can, please encourage your participants to cooperate fully with their SSI Advocate - it's important!



## SUPPORT FOR OUR VETERANS

For many veterans, GR is the last resort for obtaining assistance until they are determined eligible for Veteran's Benefits. All public contact staff should be aware that individuals who have applied for V.A. benefits continue to be eligible for General Relief until their V.A. application is approved and they actually begin receiving Veteran's Benefits payments. It is especially important that we provide support for our homeless and disabled veterans by ensuring they receive all benefits and services to which they are entitled.



## CalWORKS - SERVICES FOR TIME- LIMITED ADULTS

Are there any services currently available for families affected by Time Limits? Yes. Special services for time-limited adults will continue until September 30, 2003. Services include welfare-to-work services, child care, transportation, and supportive services, including Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence counseling. Emergency financial assistance is available to prevent eviction, pay overdue utility bills and moving costs. Staff should refer CW participants to the toll free number (1-800-746-1176) for services when asked questions about time limits.



## CIVIL RIGHTS & LANGUAGE SERVICES REMINDER

- Case records should document, in sufficient detail, the method used to provide bilingual and/or interpreter services, e.g., assigned worker is bilingual, other bilingual worker acted as interpreter, or client provided interpreter.
- When an applicant/participant provides his/her own interpreter, the case record should document that he/she was informed of the potential for ineffective communication and a consent for the release of information should be obtained.
- When an applicant/participant is identified as disabled, staff should document any requests for services and auxiliary aids (e.g., large print materials, telecommunication devices for the deaf, TDDs, etc).